

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1040

By Akbari

A RESOLUTION to honor Pastor George L. Parks, Jr., on his outstanding career in the ministry.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that this General Assembly should recognize those venerable religious leaders who, through their unflagging capacity for love, dedication of spirit, and faith in God, enrich the lives of the people in their communities; and

WHEREAS, Pastor George L. Parks, Jr., is a trailblazer for his Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and has served with distinction as the pastor of Riverside Missionary Baptist Church in Memphis since October of 2008; and

WHEREAS, a native of Nashville who grew up in Ohio, Pastor Parks received his Bachelor of Arts degree in Biblical Studies and Pastoral Studies from American Baptist College in Nashville, earned a Master of Divinity degree and the J.H. Jackson Award for Promise in Pastoral Excellence from Howard University School of Divinity, and is currently pursuing a Doctor of Ministry degree in Expository Preaching at the Memphis campus of Union University; and

WHEREAS, his calling to the ministry came and he responded prior to any of his higher education experiences. At age fourteen, George Parks engaged in ministerial work at Sacrificial Baptist Church in Ohio, where his father was pastor, and then he served as an associate minister and youth director of Watson Grove Church; and

WHEREAS, in 2007, Pastor Parks became ordained at Meridian Hill Baptist Church in Washington, D.C., serving as that church's associate pastor for a short while before answering his call to lead Riverside Missionary Baptist in Memphis as its seventeenth pastor in late 2008; and

WHEREAS, as the shepherd of the Riverside congregation, Pastor Parks has made a tremendous and profound impact in meeting the spiritual and physical needs of the congregation. He has led this flock to pay off the mortgage on the Family Life Center, the sanctuary has been remodeled, children and youth ministries have experienced an exciting revitalization, and the children's services building has been fully renovated; and

WHEREAS, George Parks epitomizes the spirit and commitment that are characteristic of a true Tennessean and he is a devout servant leader who has accomplished great works for God's kingdom; and

WHEREAS, the Rev. Parks is most grateful for the love and companionship he shares with his wife, Joy Marie Daily Parks, and their union has been richly blessed with a son, George L. Parks III (Trey), and daughter, Genesis Marie; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly finds it appropriate to pause in its deliberations to acknowledge and applaud Pastor Parks for his love of the Lord, his ministerial service to his flock, and his dedication to the State of Tennessee and its citizens; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor Pastor George L. Parks, Jr., for his outstanding ministry as the pastor of Riverside Missionary Baptist Church in Memphis, thank him for bringing faith and hope to the lives of thousands of people, and extend to him our best wishes for much continued success and happiness in the years to come.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.